Drip Irrigation Technology

362. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have taken any step or propose to take any step for providing new, effective and cheapest technology for the drip irrigation everywhere in the country to the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Netafim, an Israeli firm with pioneering expertise in drip irrigation has tied up with some Indian banks to facilitate loans for drip irrigation projects in the country; and

(d) if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government has been promoting drip irrigation in the country. Presently the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Macro Management in Agriculture—Supplementation/Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plan has drip irrigation as one of the activities. Precision Farming Development Centres (PFDCs) established at seventeen locations in the country are engaged in developing technology and for training the farmers on drip irrigation.

(c) and (d) Netafim Irrigation India Pvt. Ltd., a subsidiary of Netafim A.C.S., is an Indian company and has reportedly tied up with ICICI Bank in order to lend money to the farmers for acquiring drip irrigation systems.

Donation to Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research

†363. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal of providing an additional donation of ten million dollars to Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research is under consideration during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the amount of regular donation being given annually to the institution;

(c) whether the operation of the said institute is being carried out from abroad;

(d) if so, the place of operation and the details of agricultural activities of the said institute;

(e) whether the country has got any advantage from the research conducted by this institution; and

(f) if so, the benefits accrued to Indian farmers from this institution for the development in the agriculture sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) US $7,50,000/-

(c) and (d) The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) is housed in the headquarters of the World Bank at Washington DC, USA. It supports a network of 16 International Agricultural Research Centres, also called as Future Harvest Centres. The mission of the CGIAR is to achieve sustainable food security and reduce poverty in developing countries through scientific research and research related activities in the fields of agriculture, forestry, fisheries, policy and environment and to realize this mission, the CGIAR have adopted a strategy comprising of the seven following elements, namely (a) people and poverty focus, (b) modern science, (c) geographic priorities, (d) regional approach to research, (e) new partners in science, (f) task force approach and (g) catalytic role.

(e) and (f) The CGIAR, with its focus on public sector research, has been beneficial to the developing countries like India in the following ways :

1. Developing new varieties, particularly in rice, wheat, maize, pulses and nutrition cereals.
2. Supply of germ plasm of rice, wheat, maize, pulses and potato.
3. Technology Transfer.
4. Support for Frontier Technology like GIS.

5. Disease monitoring, containment and alerting across international borders.

6. Training of scientists by its various centres has been beneficial in the form of indirect benefit to the farmers.

Effect of subsidy given by developed countries to farmers

†364. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2374, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 13th December, 2002 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the subsidy being given by America and other developed countries to their farmers on a large scale in agriculture sector is against the agreement with World Trade Organisation;

(b) if so, whether the subsidy by these countries could not be banned through World Trade Organisation; and

(c) if so, the future planning of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Agreement on Agriculture of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) provides the rules and disciplines on, *inter alia*, domestic support and export subsidies, in respect of the agricultural products or groups of products by each WTO Member, including the United States. Accordingly, the United States is not authorized by the WTO agreements to provide subsidies in excess of the budgetary outlays and quantity commitment levels specified in its Schedule in favour of its domestic producers or exporters. In case any WTO Member perceive that any other WTO Member has failed to implement the rule and disciplines of the WTO agreements or has exceeded the specific binding commitments limiting subsidization, that Member can invoke the dispute settlement mechanism of the WTO and legally challenge the subsidies extended by the other WTO Member. For instance, Brazil has challenged the subsidies extended by the United States to its cotton farmers, and India is participating in this dispute as a third party.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.